



1973 Round 16 Saturday 8th July Belmore Oval



Canterbury 15

def.

Western Suburbs 5

Gary DOWLING
 Don ROGERS
 Bernie LOWTHER
 Stan CUTLER
 Max COLE
 Peter WINCHESTER
 Phil YOUNG
 John PEEK
 John McDONELL
 Geoff CONNELL (c)
 Henry TATANA
 Greg PURCELL
 Bill NOONAN

Fullback
Wing
Centre
Centre
Wing
Five-eighth
Half
Lock
Second Row
Second Row
Front Row
Hooker
Front Row
Replacement
Replacement

Tony FORD
 Stephen SATTERLY
 Stephen KNIGHT
 Robbie PARKER
 Russell MULLINS
 Neville SINCLAIR
 Colin WITHERS
 John BAKER (c)
 Geoff FOSTER
 Barry BRYANT
 John O'BRYAN
 Shane DAY
 Jim MURPHY
 Phil FRANKS
 Jim MYERS



Tries

Gary DOWLING
 Bernie LOWTHER
 Don ROGERS

John BAKER

Goals

Henry TATANA (3)

Tony FORD (1)

Match Description

Canterbury-Bankstown: Full-back: G Dowling; three-quarters: D Rogers, B Lowther, S Cutler, M Cole; five-eighth: P Winchester; half: P Young; forwards: J Peek, J McDonell, G Connell (c), H Tatana, G Purcell, W Noonan

Western Suburbs: Full-back: A Ford; three-quarters: S Satterly, S Knight, R Parker, R Mullins; five-eighth: N Sinclair; half: C Withers; forwards: J Baker (c), B Bryant, G Foster, J O'Bryan, S Day, J Murphy **Referee: G Hartley (The Sun 6th July 1973)**

Former Rugby League test prop Jim Murphy suffered a severe spleen injury when playing yesterday for Western Suburbs against Canterbury-Bankstown. Other Western Suburbs casualties were five-eighth Neville Sinclair (knee injury), lock John Baker and full-back Tony Ford, both with shoulder injuries. Wests lost the match 15-5, at Belmore Sports Ground and thus fell out of contention for the competition semi-finals. Canterbury overcame a scrum disadvantage to score three tries to one. The luckless Murphy has yet to complete a first-grade premiership match since joining Wests from Brisbane at the start of this season. His jaw was broken in the opening round, on March 25. He returned to the game, in reserve grade, only two weeks ago. Murphy was taken to hospital yesterday after suffering the injury in the first half of the match. ... A feature of the match was the forward struggle, with Henry Tatana, John O'Bryan and, until his injury, Murphy in their element in the heavy conditions. Tatana was particularly effective for Canterbury, with his running in the rucks and excellent ball distribution. In the second half Wests were "carrying" Baker, disabled with torn shoulder ligaments. Second-rower Geoff Foster was handling enough tackling for both of them. Wests' only try came when Knight made a great burst from deep in his own territory and, despite his injury, the break was finished off by Baker, who had to touch down using only one hand. **(Sydney Morning Herald 9th July 1973)**

Western Suburbs shouldn't leave their 21-year-old second-rower Geoff Foster on the unsigned list for another day. Foster emerged from the mud and slush of Belmore Sports Ground yesterday as one of the brightest young prospects in Sydney football. He had a special reason for going well yesterday. He came to Sydney from Griffith the season before last and couldn't crack the Berries top side. Despite his super tackling performance yesterday his side went down 15-5 to the tough Canterbury team. It certainly wasn't Foster's fault. Time and again, he halted the big Berries forwards with some crushing defence which would have done justice to the club's sidelined second-rower star John Elford. Wests have an option on Foster for next season and the youngster wants to remain with the club. "Wests have given me the chance and providing the money is right I am willing to sign a long-term contract," he said. The Magpies' shocking run of injuries continued yesterday when prop Jim Murphy and lock John Baker received serious injuries. Murphy was taken to hospital with spleen trouble while Baker couldn't lift his right arm for the game. ... **(The Sun 9th July 1973)**

Notes: This match was played in a sea of mud and slush and it was a case of *deja vu* as Wests were hit by injuries again. Unbelievably, Jim Murphy made his comeback as a starter in First Grade but was carried from the field and taken to hospital with an apparently serious spleen injury. John Baker also finished the match with a trailing arm, remarkably scoring a try one-handed. He was the captain in place of Raudonikis who was playing for NSW. Geoff Foster shone in this match, which was decided by an opportunistic Lowther try, where he scored an 80-yarder, after picking up a dropped ball.